

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, the apparatus comprising a delivering unit; a carbon monoxide source connected to the delivering unit; a dosing unit connected to the delivering unit and carbon monoxide source, wherein the mass flow between the delivering unit and the carbon monoxide source is controlled by the dosing unit; at least one sensor unit that determines the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood; a control unit in communication with the sensor unit and the dosing unit, wherein the control unit regulates the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit, automatically compares the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset desired value, and regulates the dosing unit to adjust the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the blood corresponding to the preset desired value; and
~~The apparatus according to claim 14 further comprising~~ a filter unit through which the air expired by the patient is passed in order to remove excess carbon monoxide from the expired gas, wherein the filter is a physical or a chemical filter.

21-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, the apparatus comprising a delivering unit; a carbon monoxide source; a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient; a sensor for determining the concentration of

carbon monoxide in the blood; and a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit. ~~The apparatus of claim 14,~~ wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of oxyhemoglobin (HbO₂) in the blood.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, the apparatus comprising a delivering unit; a carbon monoxide source; a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient; a sensor for determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood; and a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit; ~~The apparatus of claim 14,~~ wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the activity of enzymes in the blood.

25-28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, comprising:

(a) administering exogenous carbon monoxide to the patient;
(b) determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood ~~The method of claim 26,~~ wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of oxyhemoglobin (HbO₂) in the blood;

(c) comparing the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset, desired value; and

(d) subsequently adjusting the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the patient's blood corresponding to the preset desired value,
wherein steps (a) through (d) are performed using an apparatus comprising a delivering unit, a carbon monoxide source, a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient, a sensor for determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood, and a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, comprising:

(a) administering exogenous carbon monoxide to the patient;

(b) determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood ~~The method of claim 26, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the activity of enzymes in the blood;~~

(c) comparing the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset, desired value; and

(d) subsequently adjusting the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the patient's blood corresponding to the preset desired value, wherein steps (a) through (d) are performed using an apparatus comprising a delivering unit, a carbon monoxide source, a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient, a sensor for determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood, and a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit.

31-37 (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, comprising:

(a) administering exogenous carbon monoxide to the patient;

(b) determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood;

(c) comparing the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset, desired value; and

(d) subsequently adjusting the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the patient's blood corresponding to the preset desired value, wherein steps (a) through (d) are performed using an apparatus comprising:

a delivering unit;

a carbon monoxide source;
a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient;
a sensor for determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood; and
a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit;
wherein the carbon monoxide is delivered for inhalation in pulses, wherein the pulses are inspiration or expiration triggered.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) A method for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, comprising:

- (a) administering exogenous carbon monoxide to the patient;
- (b) determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood;
- (c) comparing the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset, desired value; and
- (d) subsequently adjusting the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the patient's blood corresponding to the preset desired value, wherein steps (a) through (d) are performed using an apparatus comprising:

a delivering unit;
a carbon monoxide source;
a dosing unit for administering carbon monoxide to the patient;
a sensor for determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood; and
a controller for regulating the dosing unit depending on feedback from the sensor unit;

wherein the administration of carbon monoxide is performed via sequences of pulses, wherein the number and length of the pulses in each sequence or the number of sequences, or both, is regulated depending on the determination of the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood.

41-42 (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method for administering carbon monoxide to a patient, the method comprising:

- a) administering exogenous carbon monoxide to the patient by inhalation, wherein the carbon monoxide is delivered for inhalation in pulses triggered by inspiration, expiration or both;
- b) determining the concentration of carbon monoxide in the patient's blood;
- c) comparing the actual concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood with a preset, desired value; and
- d) subsequently adjusting the amount of carbon monoxide delivered to the patient to obtain a concentration in the patient's blood corresponding to the preset desired value.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein steps (b) through (d) are repeated at least once.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of carboxyhemoglobin (HbCO) in the blood,

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of oxyhemoglobin (HbO₂) in the blood.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the activity of enzymes in the blood.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the CO content of the air expired by the patient.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of HbCO in the blood by non-invasive measurement or from a blood sample.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by measuring the concentration of HbO₂ in the blood by oxymetry.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein measuring the carbon monoxide content of the expired air is performed spectroscopically or electrochemically.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the carbon monoxide is administered to a patient in a gas mixture by admixing it into the breathing air of a patient.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is controlled by the oxygen content of the breathing gas.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the administration of carbon monoxide is performed via sequences of pulses, wherein the number and length of the pulses in each sequence and/or the number of sequences is regulated depending on the determination of the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the patient is spontaneously breathing or artificially breathing.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the concentration of carbon monoxide in the blood is determined by at least two separate methods of measurement.

57-64 (Canceled)

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the preset value is between about 0.5% to 50% carboxyhemoglobin per total hemoglobin.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the preset value is between about 5% to 20% carboxyhemoglobin per total hemoglobin.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the preset value is between about 5% to 15% carboxyhemoglobin per total hemoglobin.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the preset value is about 8% carboxyhemoglobin per total hemoglobin.